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# Incineration cheaper, study shows

By Reka Szekely

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**DURHAM** -- Although it would cost more up front, incinerating Durham's garbage is the best available long-term option, says the Region's business case for the project.

The business case, released Friday, compares energy-from-waste (EFW) to using a landfill site outside the region, somewhere in Ontario. The EFW project comes out ahead, the financial analysis by Deloitte and Touche said, because it removes the risk and uncertainty surrounding fuel costs and the shortage of landfill capacity in the province.

"What it will do is bring a solution to the waste disposal situation on a long-term basis," said Region finance commissioner Jim Clapp.

And a UOIT professor said the report was acceptable, though he had a few questions.

Ibrahim Dincer, a UOIT professor and engineer specializing in sustainable energy systems, said while the emissions limits in the report are acceptable, he would have liked to have seen what specific emission controlling technologies would be used.

"There are certain technologies, quite costly, in terms of emission control that are very effective," he said.

As well, he said he would have liked to have seen a life-cycle assessment for the EFW facility to see projected costs over the plant's whole life compared to landfill.

Dr. Dincer raised concerns about sorting out hazardous materials, such as batteries, which could affect emissions from the plant. Many people put such material in the garbage and it needs to be sorted out before it gets to the plant, he said.

"At the final point, sorting out is very difficult and very costly," he said.

The facility, which would be located in Clarington near Courtice Road and Hwy. 401, would cost \$198 million to construct, with Durham Region picking up \$155 million of the tab and York Region paying the rest.

The incinerator could accept 140,000 tonnes of waste per year and be state-of-the-art, meeting or exceeding Ontario's guidelines and European Union emission standards.

The annual operating and maintenance cost of the facility would be \$17 million. Durham would pay \$13 mil-

lion of that. Among the operation costs is just less than \$1 million in property taxes; two-thirds of which would go to the Municipality of Clarington, Mr. Clapp said.

If federal gas tax funds are used to pay a portion of the up-front costs, the Region's debt related to the facility would be paid off in six years.

That means by 2017 and on, the cost of incineration would be lower than using landfill somewhere else, the report said. If the gas tax is not used and the facility is fully funded through debt financing, it would take

See INCINERATOR page 2

## Listen, then vote



OSHAWA-- CAW workers turned out en masse Friday at the General Motors Centre to vote on the latest contract proposal. See story page 2.

Photo by Sheena Ouderkirk

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